



Amesbury Council on Aging

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Needs Assessment Survey
Brief Summary Report
Amesbury Council on Aging
Senior Community Center
May 2013

To all of our seniors who completed the Amesbury Community Center Needs Assessment: I would like to extend my sincere gratitude in thanking you for taking the time to complete this survey. This is a brief format to address the items brought up in the survey. A more detailed report is available on-line and at the senior center.

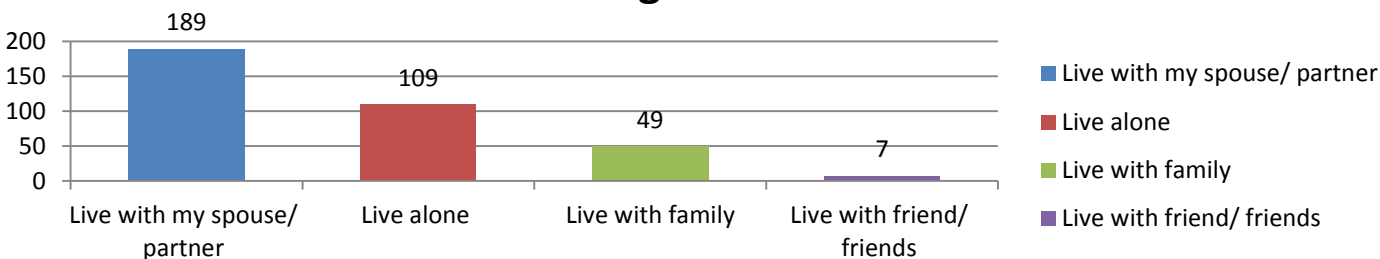
This first question is who do we consider to be a senior? The answer is anyone age 60 and older. We mailed out the survey to people age 59 so we could see what their thoughts are and as a means to become familiar with the Council on Aging.

A quick side note:

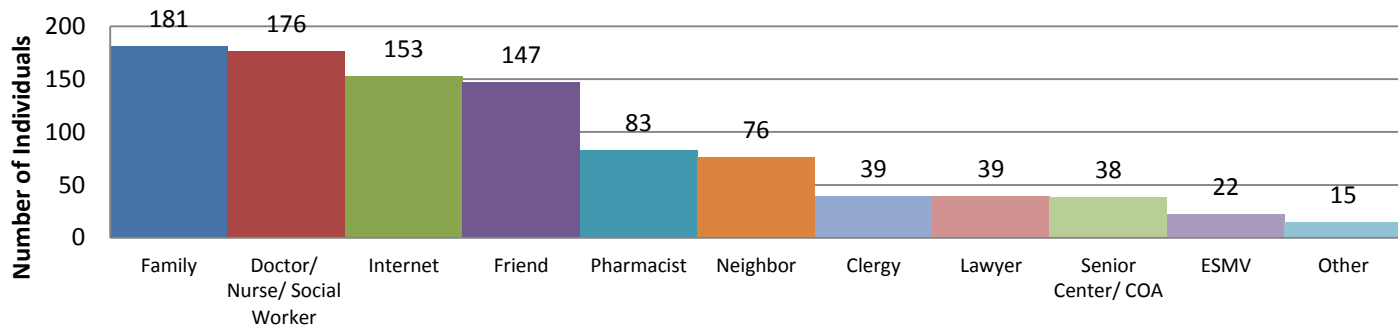
- Council on Aging (COA) is the department funded by the City.
- The Senior Community Center (SCC): is the physical space in which the COA uses to have activities/offices.
- MVRTA Nicholas J. Costello Transportation Center is the name of the building
- FCOA Friends of the Council on Aging, has a 501c3 non-profit status that supports the COA but is a separate entity with its own board.

The Quick Numbers: 3,404 surveys were mailed, 380 were returned = 11.16%

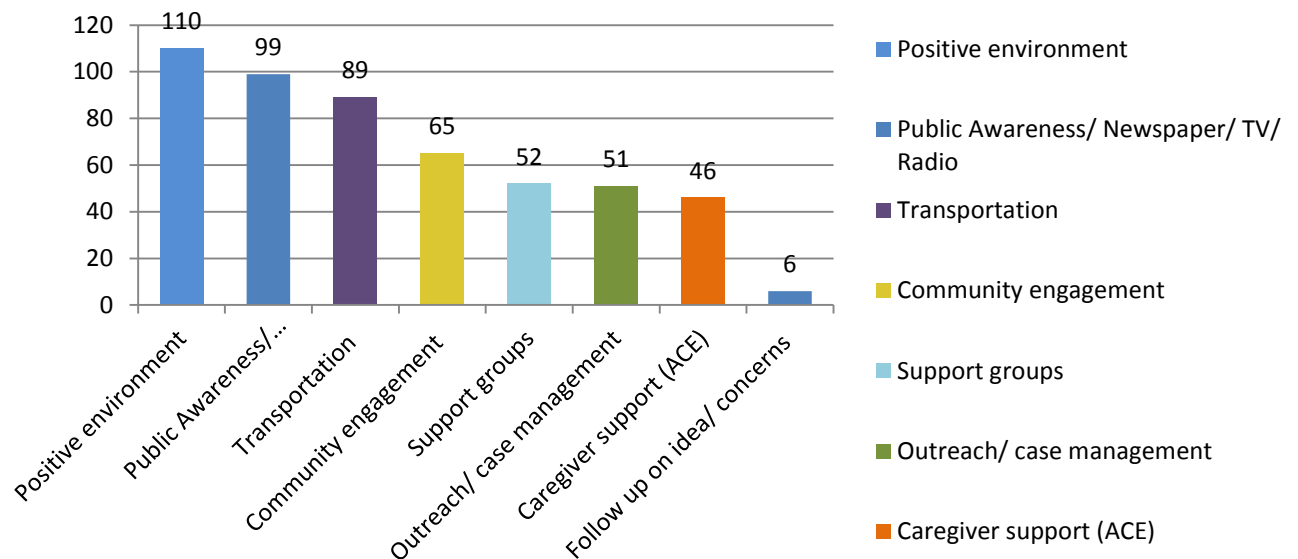
Living Situation



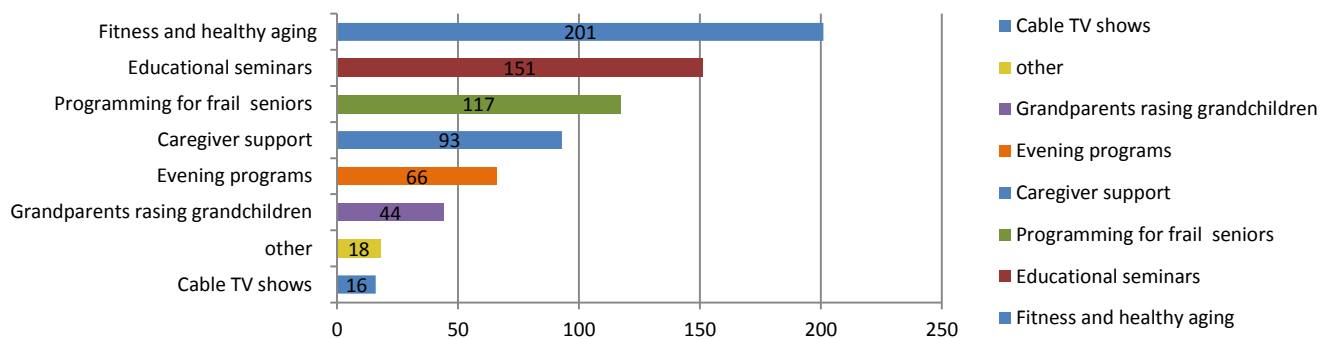
Where People Recieve Information/Resources



Areas the COA Does Well



Five Year Development



The top 4 identified areas of current financial and legal concerns are as follows:

1. Taxes
2. Retirement
3. Paying Rent/mortgage
4. Paying utilities

The Top 4 Area of current health and safety needs are:

1. Health insurance
2. General Health concerns
3. Lack of exercise
4. Physical disability

The top 4 areas of concerns/need in Household/Personnel Care:

1. Housecleaning
2. Organization/clutter
3. Grocery shopping
4. Laundry

The top 4 areas of concern/need in housing/living situation are:

1. Repairs
2. Affordability
3. Accessibility
4. Neighborhood safety

The top 4 areas of concern/need in social/transportation/family are:

1. Accessing social activities
2. Finding volunteer opportunities
3. Driving
4. Contact with close family and friends

The top 5 areas people use the SCC for are:

1. Newsletter
2. Special Events
3. Trips and Tours
4. Socializing
5. Health/wellbeing

Summary:

So what does all this mean? In the full report you will see specific items raised and addressed. What was learned out of the report is that the top four areas that will be developed over the next five areas are fitness and healthy aging, educational seminars, frail elder programing and caregiver support. These areas will be explored, programs developed and grants will be sought. Currently the FCOA receives a grant for caregiver support from Tufts Health Plan foundation for the Amesbury Caregiver Essential (ACE) program. Evening programs/seminars will be developed and implemented based on survey results. The current frail elder program – chronicle club will be looked to be expanded and grants sought.

The top areas of concerns for seniors in Amesbury will be explored and supports be developed. As people age their health care and financial needs may change. The COA is working on developing a plan to aid seniors to age in their home in a manner that is safe, healthy and supportive. The COA will be sending out interim updates on the status of services and implementation over the next year. We encourage you to monitor our web site for results or you may pick these reports up at the COA. Please feel free to contact Annmary I. Connor, LICSW Amesbury COA Director for more information at 978- 388-8138 or via email at connora@amesburyma.gov.